

# REPORT

## NATIVE PAPERS

ON

FOR THE  
Week ending the 22nd June 1895.

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## LIST OF NEWSPAPERS.

No.	Names of Newspapers.	Place of publication.	Reported number of subscribers.	Dates of papers received and examined for the week.	REMARKS.
<b>BENGALI.</b>					
<i>Tri-monthly.</i>					
1	"Abodh Bodhini" ...	Calcutta	About 677		
<i>Weekly.</i>					
1	"Banganivasi" ...	Ditto	" 5,000	14th June 1895.	
2	"Bangavasi" ...	Ditto	" 20,000	15th ditto.	
3	"Hitaishi" ...	Ditto	" .....	18th ditto.	
4	"Hitavadi" ...	Ditto	" 4,000	14th ditto.	
5	"Mihir" ...	Ditto	" .....	15th ditto.	
6	"Sahachar" ...	Ditto	About 500	12th ditto.	
7	"Samay" ...	Ditto	" 4,000	14th ditto.	
8	"Sanjivani" ..	Ditto	" 3,000	15th ditto.	
9	"Som Prakash" ...	Ditto	" 800	17th ditto.	
10	"Sudhakar" ...	Ditto	" 3,000		
<i>Daily.</i>					
1	"Banga Vidya Prakashika"	Ditto	" 200	16th to 18th and 20th June 1895.	
2	"Dainik-o-Samachar Chandrika."	Ditto	" 200	16th and 20th June 1895.	
	"Samvad Prabhakar" ...	Ditto	" 500	15th, 18th and 20th June 1895.	
4	"Samvad Purnachandrodaya"	Ditto	" 200		
5	"Sulabh Dainik" ...	Ditto	" 1,000	14th, 15th, and 17th to 20th June 1895.	
<b>HINDI.</b>					
<i>Weekly.</i>					
1	"Bharat Mitra" ...	Ditto	" 800		
2	"Hindi Bangavasi" ...	Ditto	" 9,000	17th June 1895.	
3	"Uchit Vakta" ...	Ditto	" .....		
<i>Daily.</i>					
1	"Bharat Mitra" ...	Ditto	" .....	11th, 14th, 15th and 17th to 19th June 1895.	
<b>URDU.</b>					
<i>Weekly.</i>					
1	"Darussaltanat and Urdu Guide."	Ditto	About 400	13th June 1895.	
2	"General and Gauhariasfi"	Ditto	" 300	8th ditto.	
<b>BENGALI.</b>					
<i>Fortnightly.</i>					
1	"Bankura Darpan" ...	Bankura	" 500	16th ditto.	
2	"Ulubaria Darpan" ...	Ulubaria	" 298		
<i>Weekly.</i>					
1	"Burdwan Sanjivani" ...	Burdwan	350 to 400	11th June 1895.	
2	"Chinsura Vartavaha" ...	Chinsura	500		
3	"Darsak" ...	Ditto	" .....	16th ditto.	
4	"Education Gazette" ...	Hooghly	754	14th ditto.	
<b>BENGALI.</b>					
<i>Monthly.</i>					
1	"Ghosak" ...	Khulna	350	June 1895.	
<i>Weekly.</i>					
1	"Murshidabad Hitaishi" ...	Murshidabad	280	12th June 1895.	
2	"Murshidabad Pratinidhi" ...	Berhampore	200		
3	"Pratikar" ...	Ditto	603	14th ditto.	



No.	Names of Newspapers.	Place of publication.	Reported number of subscribers.	Dates of papers received and examined for the week.	REMARKS.
	URIYA.	ORISSA DIVISION.			
	<i>Monthly.</i>				
1	"Brahma" ...	Cuttack ...	.....		Only six copies have been issued since the paper was received in January 1894. Some 200 copies of each issue are said to have been circulated, but no subscribers have been registered. This paper is said to have some circulation in the Division, but the number of subscribers could not be ascertained.
2	"Shikshabandhu" ...	Ditto ...	.....		
3	"Utkalprabha" ...	Mayurbhunj ...	3		
	<i>Weekly.</i>				
1	"Samvad Vahika" ...	Balasore ...	190		
2	"Uriya and Navasamvad" ...	Ditto ...	309		
3	"Utkal Dipika" ...	Cuttack ...	412		
4	"Sambalpur Patriot" ...	Bamra in the Central Provinces.	.....		
	HINDI.	PATNA DIVISION.			
	<i>Monthly.</i>				
1	"Bihar Bandhu" ...	Bankipur ...	500		
	<i>Weekly.</i>				
1	"Aryavarta" ...	Dinapur ...	1,000		
	URDU.				
	<i>Weekly.</i>				
1	"Akhbar-i-Al Punch" ...	Bankipur ...	500	16th June 1895.	
2	"Gaya Punch" ...	Gaya ...	400	10th ditto.	
3	"Mehre Monawar" ...	Muzaffarpur ...	150		
	BENGALI.	RAJSHAHI DIVISION.			
	<i>Weekly.</i>				
1	"Bagura Darpan" ...	Bogra ...	.....	14th ditto.	
2	"Hindu Ranjika" ...	Boalia, Rajshahi ...	283	12th ditto.	
3	"Rangpur Dikprakash" ...	Kakina, Rangpur ...	300		
	HINDI.				
	<i>Monthly.</i>				
1	"Darjeeling Mission ke Masik Samachar Patrika."	Darjeeling ...	150		It is said that 550 copies of the paper are printed each month. Out of this number 150 copies are distributed among the subscribers and the rest sold to the public at three pies per copy.
	BENGALI.	DACCA DIVISION.			
	<i>Fortnightly.</i>				
1	"Kasipur Nivasi" ...	Kasipur, Barisal ...	280		
	<i>Weekly.</i>				
1	"Charu Mihir" ...	Mymensingh ...	900	11th June 1895.	
2	"Dacca Prakash" ...	Dacca ...	450		
3	"Saraswat Patra" ...	Ditto ...	250	15th ditto.	
4	"Vikrampur" ...	Lauhajangha, Dacca ...	500	13th ditto.	
	ENGLISH AND BENGALI.				
	<i>Weekly.</i>				
1	"Dacca Gazette" ...	Dacca ...	500	17th ditto.	
	BENGALI.	CHITTAGONG DIVISION.			
	<i>Fortnightly.</i>				
1	"Tripura Prakash" ...	Comilla ...	.....		
	<i>Weekly.</i>				
1	"Sansodhini" ...	Chittagong ...	120		
	BENGALI.	ASSAM.			
	<i>Fortnightly.</i>				
1	"Paridarshak" ...	Sylhet ...	240		
2	"Srihattavasi" ...	Ditto ...	* 160		* Entry based on information supplied by the Deputy Postmaster-General, Assam.







## I.—FOREIGN POLITICS.

The *Bharat Mitra* of the 15th June says that the visit of Prince Nasrulla Khan to England has assured the English Court of his father's faithful adhesion to the British cause. Disposal of Chitral and Bajaur. In the political circles of England there is a talk of making over Chitral and Bajaur to the Amir. The Amir has a right to Bajaur, because it formed a part of his dominion before it was annexed by Lord Lansdowne. But Chitral ought to be given to the Maharaja of Cashmere, who is its rightful owner.

*BHARAT MITRA,*  
June 15th, 1895.

2. The *Dainik-o-Samachar Chandrika* of the 17th June says that in settling the Sikkim boundary question, no offence should be given to the Lamas. It is not right to rush into war with Tibet, because China is weak. It is easy to declare a war, but it is not so easy to pay its costs. The Government is already on the brink of bankruptcy, and as for the Indian people, the last straw may break the camel's back.

*DAINIK-O-SAMACHAR*  
*CHANDRIKA,*  
June 17th, 1895.

3. The *Hindi Bangavasi* of the 17th June says that the Chitral expedition was fitted out on such a grand scale, because a rumour was current among English politicians that Chitral would be defended by the united strength of the Amir and the Mehtar. It appears that the Amir had actually wished to defend Chitral, but the flattering reception which his son met with in England and the promise which the English Government made of making over to him Chitral and Bajaur, made him change his purpose. But the Amir will find his expectation belied.

*HINDI BANGAVASI,*  
June 17th, 1895.

## II.—HOME ADMINISTRATION.

## (a)—Police.

4. A correspondent of the *Charu Mihir* of the 11th June says that since the Sub-Inspector of Police, Kendua thana, in the Netrakona subdivision of the Mymensingh district, held an investigation under the orders of the Sub-divisional Officer, into the conduct of certain *badmashes* in the Palari village, against whom a petition was submitted to that officer, the people who gave evidence at the investigation have been subjected to greater oppression than before. They cannot go out or stay alone in their houses at night with a sense of security. There is also a rumour current in the village that the *badmashes* intend burning down the houses of those who were foremost in giving evidence against them.

*CHARU MIHIR,*  
June 11th, 1895.

5. The same paper requests the District Magistrate of Mymensingh to send a Deputy Magistrate and some police officers to look after the security of life and property of the pilgrims and shop-keepers who come to the *mêla* which is held every year at Kalirbazar station on the occasion of the *Rathjatra* festival. Last year the *badmashes* looted the shops for full one hour, and not even the chastity of women is safe in their presence.

*CHARU MIHIR.*

6. The *Vikrampur* of the 13th June draws the attention of the local police to the prevalence of lawlessness in Bharakur, a village in Vikrampur. A gang of ruffians are cruelly oppressing the inhabitants and maltreating them in various ways, and the village police is quite powerless in coping with them.

*VIKRAMPUR,*  
June 13th, 1895.

7. A correspondent of the *Hitavadi* of the 14th June says that a number of *badmashes* of Akhainagar, in the Bagerhat subdivision of the Khulna district, have banded themselves for the purpose of committing oppressions on the people of Sodal, Bhattapratap, Akhainagar, Katali and other villages in the subdivision. A few days ago, at midday, one of them ravished a young Brahman widow in the Katalir *math*. A complaint was laid against the man, but on the ground of a slight discrepancy in the preliminary evidence, and without even a local investigation, the Subdivisional Officer dismissed the case. Since the dismissal of that case, the ruffians have grown bolder; and neither life, property, nor female honour is safe at their hands. Within the last month or so, there have been three or four cases of theft. Even cows are being stolen from the cows-sheds, and boats from their moorings. Some time ago, one night, they

*HITAVADI,*  
June 14th, 1895.



forcibly took away a respectable young girl from her father-in-law's house. The father-in-law not liking to give publicity to the matter, instituted a case of dacoity against the offenders, but the case did not stand. Babu Srinath Gupta, late Subdivisional Officer, was able to keep these *badmashes* in check, because he used to go out on rounds at night like a common *chaukidar*. The oppressions now going on will not cease unless a similar energetic officer is again sent to Bagerhat. The police is quite incapable by itself of coping with the evil, as people will not come forward to give evidence against the *badmashes*. Some of them have been recently sent up; and the Deputy Magistrate is requested to collect evidence against them by personal investigation in the villages, and not by calling a few witnesses in Court.

HITAVADI,  
June 14th, 1895.

8. The same paper has the following about the reinstatement of the Tallyganj writer-constable:—

The reinstatement of the writer-constable.

The object with which we wrote our article on this case, is gained. After reading our article, the Lieutenant-Governor called for an explanation by letter No. 21J.D., dated the 30th April. His Honour does not much like the *Hitavadi*, but it is a matter for congratulation that he enquires into the correctness or otherwise of the statements which are made in this paper. His Honour deserves our best thanks for enquiring into every matter which is brought before him. It must be admitted to be a noble trait in his character that he never fails to take notice of what is written even against the officials. As a matter of fact, India has rarely the good fortune to get such a hardworking and inquisitive Governor.

Sir Charles Elliott has earned our heartiest thanks by reinstating Bhagavati Charan Ghosh in his office. We are all the more glad to have this opportunity of praising his Honour, because we have constantly to write against his policy and actions. Next November will see us parting. And if Sir Charles can devote the few remaining months of his administration to hearing the people's complaints and removing their grievances, they will forget the past and gratefully cherish his memory for a long time.

BHAGAVATI,  
June 15th, 1895.

9. A correspondent of the *Bhagavati* of the 15th June writes as follows:—

A *Bakr-id* riot in the Mursidabad district.

On the 5th June last, the day of the celebration of the *Bakr-id*, there was a riot at Bhagwan-gola in the Mursidabad district. At about nine o'clock in the morning, the Musalman residents were taking nine cows along the public road for slaughter. The local medical practitioner expostulated with them for taking the cows to the place of slaughter by a road which is used by the Hindus. At this, fifty or sixty Musalmans rushed into the Doctor Babu's house, and beat him and others. The assault was so severe, that the Babu's arm was fractured. The assailants also destroyed his medical store. Information of the attack was sent several times to the local Sub-Inspector, who is a Mussalman; but it is said that he took no notice of the matter. The Doctor Babu's house is at a short distance from the police station, and yet the police did not appear on the scene at the time of the occurrence.

SULABH DAINIK,  
June 15th, 1895.

10. The *Sulabh Dainik* of the 15th June is very glad to learn from the

Reinstatement of the writer-constable of Tallyganj.

*Hitavadi* of the 14th instant, that the dismissed writer-constable of Tallyganj has been reinstated in his post, as the Lieutenant-Governor has come to be convinced of his innocence. The *Hitavadi* was the first to bring to the notice of the public the injustice done to the writer-constable, and to appeal to the Lieutenant-Governor to reconsider his decision, and do justice to the poor policeman. It is gratifying to learn that His Honour has attended to the complaint of a native paper. The press is regarded as the fourth estate, and the honour done to it, is honour done to the people of India. It is the glory of the native press that one of its members has been instrumental in getting justice done to a poor man. The whole country is grateful to the Lieutenant-Governor for this act of justice. Let His Honour see how easy it is to make the people of India grateful to the Government.

SANJIVANI,  
June 15th, 1895.

11. The *Sanjivani* of the 15th June has the following:—

Ill-treatment by police officers of their subordinates.

It is well known that there are very few good and honest men who would be inclined to enter the police service. The unpopularity of the service



is due, in the first place, to its small remuneration; and in the second, to the ill-treatment by the police officers of their subordinates. The way the European Police Superintendents conduct themselves towards the native Sub-Inspectors and head constables is such as to make it difficult for an honest gentleman to remain in the service without sacrificing his sense of self-respect. And if the Government does not come forward to put a stop to this scandalous state of things, police service will ever remain associated with all that is dishonest and disreputable. The subordinate police officers seem just at present to be having a very bad time of it in Assam, and we are under the painful necessity of bringing their grievances to the notice of the Government.

Babu Umasankar Bhattacharjya was the Police Sub-Inspector of the Barpeta sub-division in the Kamrup district. One day he came to learn that his wife was stricken with paralysis. He had to apply to the District Police Superintendent, Mr. Reily, for a short leave of absence in order to go and fetch his wife. Mr. Reily, however, did not grant his application, and ignored with stolid indifference the poor Sub-Inspector's repeated applications for leave. As his last resource, Babu Umasankar appealed to the Inspector-General of Police, Mr. Godfrey, who was kind enough to grant his prayer. But what was done by the Inspector-General, was undone by the District Superintendent who, on flimsy excuses, postponed giving effect to Mr. Godfrey's orders. Seven or eight months passed in this way, when in the beginning of 1893, Mr. Driberg, the new Inspector-General happened to pay a visit to the Barpeta police station. He detected a few petty mistakes in the police Sub-Inspector's diary, and was so very dissatisfied with him for his having left an important document at home, when it ought to have been in the office, that he fined him five rupees. After the inspection was over, however, Mr. Driberg was on the whole satisfied with the Sub-Inspector's work, and excused him the payment of the fine. But when Mr. Reily came to read the remarks of the Inspector-General, he at once insisted on the Sub-Inspector's degradation, on the ground that he had committed mistakes in keeping his books. Mr. Teunon, the then Deputy Commissioner of Kamrup, was, however, decidedly opposed to taking such a course, and Mr. Reily thus foiled vented his spleen by fining the poor Sub-Inspector twenty-five rupees. Babu Umasankar appealed to the Inspector-General against the District Superintendent's order, but in vain. A few months after this, Babu Umasankar was seriously laid up with fever and remained confined to his bed for three weeks. According to police regulations, a police officer, not belonging to a rank higher than that of an Inspector, does not forfeit his salary if, laid up with illness, he does not absent himself from his head-quarters, and if the period of such illness does in no case exceed one month. In the case of Babu Umasankar, however, this police regulation was violated. He forfeited his pay for the three weeks he remained confined to bed. A few days after this, Mr. Reily himself fell ill, and remained confined to bed for two months. But the Inspector-General did not in his case insist on forfeiture of pay, nor did Mr. Reily hesitate to draw his pay in contravention of the police regulation. Babu Umasankar had not fully recovered from his illness, when he was transferred from Barpeta to Rungia. Just at that moment his wife was confined with a child, but he did not make any complaint, and submitted himself to the trouble and inconvenience of travelling with a new born babe. Babu Umasankar was not, however, allowed to stay at Rungia long, and two months after his transfer to that place he was retransferred to Barpeta. This was too much for Babu Umasankar. He could not induce himself to face the risk of a journey in mid-winter with a delicate child. Moreover, he could not secure lodgings at Barpeta at that time. He represented all these circumstances to Mr. Driberg, and prayed him to postpone his transfer for a few weeks. Mr. Driberg, however, rejected his application. Babu Umasankar was therefore compelled to seek the protection of the Deputy Commissioner, Mr. McCabe, who was kind enough to postpone his transfer.

The above is not the only instance of the ill-treatment by police officers of their subordinates. Here is another:—Purnananda Bhunja is a head-constable in Kamrup. In December last, Mr. Reily transferred him to Baruihat, with the instruction that he should prepare the annual statement of accounts of the Baruihat police station, and look after its repairs. The duty of the Baruihat



police, which is to look after the local roads, is generally in the hands of a writer-constable. It was this consideration which led the head-constable, after he had finished the work which he was specially instructed to do, to go and see Mr. Reily, and wait for further orders. Strangely enough, however, Mr. Reily at once degraded him for several months on the ground that he had left the Baruihat police station in charge of a writer-constable without any orders to that effect from the higher authorities. On an appeal to the Deputy Commissioner, the period of the head-constable's degradation was reduced to three months. Purnananda represented the matter to Mr. Driberg when he came on a visit to Baruihat, and he was instructed to submit a formal application. But when an application was submitted, Mr. Driberg declined to interfere.

The good administration of the country depends to a very large extent on the moral status of the police, which is not likely to be raised as long as the European police officers continue to ill-treat their native subordinates in this shameful way, and thereby prevent all good and honest men from entering the police service.

12. The same paper also contains the following:—

SANJIVANI,  
June 15th, 1895.

The District Superintendent of Police, Daltonganj.

According to a correspondent of the *Indian Mirror*, Mr. Fullerton, the District Superintendent of Daltonganj, cannot bear the sight of a native riding or driving, or using an umbrella before him. If any person offends his sense of propriety by resorting to any of these forbidden practices, he is forthwith brought to his senses, and made to realize the dignified position of the District Superintendent of Police. If a person driving a carriage, riding a horse, or using an umbrella, happens to come across Mr. Fullerton, he must come down on the ground, shut up his umbrella, and *salaam* him with every form of respect and humility. If he fails to do so, he must submit himself to a sound thrashing, for Mr. Fullerton is determined to extort a *salaam*, where a *salaam* is not voluntarily made to him. The conduct of the Police Superintendent has struck terror into the hearts of the Daltonganj people, and they have given up the practice of riding and driving and sporting an umbrella, and have ceased to frequent the public thoroughfares lest they should come across the formidable Police Superintendent. There seems to be no one to oppose Mr. Fullerton, and he is having his way with a vengeance. When the people complained to Mr. Streatfield, the Deputy Commissioner, against the conduct of the District Superintendent, they were told that that police functionary was entitled to their respect, and if they failed to show it, he had every right to extort it from them. The support of the Deputy Commissioner so far emboldened the Police Superintendent that he did not hesitate to insult a gentleman in his favourite way in the very presence of his superior officer. Now, will Sir Charles Elliott think it worth his while to make an enquiry into the conduct of the Police Superintendent of Daltonganj? It is during his rule that executive officers like Mr. Fullerton have been treated with the greatest indulgence, and thereby emboldened to ride roughshod over the feelings of the people. Magistrates like Radice and Konstam have been rewarded instead of being punished for their acts of oppression. Sir Rivers Thompson was condemned by the people as a blind patron of his countrymen, but Sir Charles Elliott has gone beyond Sir Rivers Thompson. We assure him, however, that he will entirely forfeit the confidence of the people, if he persists in his policy of rewarding oppressive executive officers. It is to be hoped that he will not lose his opportunity of endearing himself to the people, now that he is about to retire from the public service—by demanding an explanation from Messrs. Fullerton and Streatfield, the precious pair of executive officers in Daltonganj.

DAINIK-O-SAMACHAR  
CHANDRIKA,  
June 16th, 1895.

13. The *Dainik-o-Samachar Chandrika*, of the 16th June has the following:—

Female honour outraged in the Rangpur district.

The *Murshidabad Hitaishi* says that on the occasion of the late bathing festival, two Hindu women were robbed of their chastity by some Musalmans near Tista, in the Rangpur district. The relatives of these poor women feel perfectly miserable. They have prayed to the Lieutenant-Governor for a police investigation. How dreadful all this! The very mention of it makes one experience a thrill of horror. There was the Mymensingh case, and now there is this Rangpur case. Are we then really living under British rule?



14. The *Dainik-o-Samachar Chandrika* of the 17th June has the following:—

The Chittagong police in a case of murder.

Babu Kanti Chandra Ghosh is an inhabitant of Chandernagore and is at present a railway contractor in Chittagong. He is a man of position and wealth and bears an excellent character. On the 21st July 1894 he was enjoying his usual after-dinner nap, when he was unexpectedly roused from his sleep by the District Superintendent, Mr. Daly, and his myrmidons, who had come to arrest him on a charge of manslaughter. Babu Kanti Chandra was taken by surprise and it took him some time to realize his position. On enquiry he learnt that he was arrested on the charge of having murdered his servant and concealed his body.

Babu Kanti Chandra was at his wits' end. He had only one servant, who was all hale and hearty and presented himself before the police in flesh and blood. But the police was not to be satisfied. Kanti Babu was brought before Mr. Anderson of Balladhan notoriety and was remanded to jail for 15 days. In the meantime the police moved heaven and earth to find out the corpse of the man who was supposed to have been murdered. The river Karnafuli was dragged; but the remains of the murdered man were not discovered. A few corpses were secured, but none of them, as the Civil Surgeon deposed, bore marks of violence. It was now the turn of the police to be at its wits' end.

But the police was not to be disheartened. It got the trial postponed and took time to collect evidence. Jatindranath Babu of Backergunge, who was at that time living at Chittagong, was not heard of for some time. The police took him for the murdered man. A search was made for him. But unhappily for the Chittagong police, Jatindranath was discovered, safe and sound, in his native village. The forlorn hope of Mr. Daly now left him. He was transferred and gave up his hunt after a mare's nest. The day of trial came, and the Magistrate acquitted the prisoner as there was absolutely no evidence against him. Babu Kanti Chandra had, however, by this time undergone imprisonment for more than one month. Who is to be held responsible for this?

The cat was now out of the bag. Mr. Daly had received an anonymous letter charging Kanti Babu with the murder of one of his servants. On the strength of this anonymous letter the police harassed an innocent gentleman and even collected against him the incriminating evidence of several Europeans, who deposed before the police to have heard the groans of a dying man proceeding from Kanti Babu's house. A large number of respectable residents of Chittagong, however, deposed in favour of the accused. But in the eye of the police their evidence had no weight. The police had fairly got up its case, but it broke down for the want of the corpse of the murdered man.

But Mr. Daly would have surely got over this difficulty had he not been transferred just at the turning point of the event. There is nothing in the world which the police cannot do, and evidence is never wanting to convict an innocent man. The celebrated case of Iswar Napit is still fresh in men's minds. In that case the Howrah police charged Iswar Napit with the murder of his daughter. There was overwhelming evidence against the accused; he was convicted, and the Sessions Judge was about to pronounce the death-sentence on him, when the "murdered girl" appeared in flesh and blood before the Court.

The Balladhan and Chittagong cases are but repetitions of the Howrah case. Surely we are fallen on evil days and no man's life seems safe in the hands of a corrupt police.

15. The *Hitaishi* of the 18th June writes as follows:—

The recrudescence of crime in Bengal.

The recrudescence of crime in Bengal during the last few years has created a consternation in the public mind. During the last half century the country was under a spell of peace, and the blood-curdling incidents of dacoity and murder had passed into nursery rhymes. But of late, there has been a tremendous growth of crime in the country, and even in the vicinity of Calcutta daring theft and dacoity have almost become incidents of daily occurrence. Land and water have, as of old, become infested by robbers and thieves and even railway stations are haunted by them.

This recrudescence of crime is no doubt due to the growing inefficiency of the Bengal police. Its inefficiency has increased with its powers. It can no longer boast of a Girish Bose, a Baidyanath or an Abul Huq. The Magistracy

DAINIK-O-SAMACHAR  
CHANDRIKA,  
June 17th, 1895.

HITAISHI,  
June 18th, 1895.



too, has deteriorated, and among the Magistrates of to-day one would hardly meet with a Munro, a Trevor, a Batterworth, an Elliott, or an Issur Ghosal.

There is another reason why crime is growing in the country with such a rapid stride. The powers of the zamindars and the indigo planters have been crippled. In days gone by, they proved themselves to be valuable auxiliaries to the police at a time of crisis. The services rendered by them at the time of the revolt of Titumir are still remembered. But at present the indigo planters are fast disappearing from the land and the zamindars are hardly able to protect themselves.

Under these circumstances, the confidence of the people in the power of the British rule has been a little shaken. That rule had brought them peace, tranquillity, and security. People believed that to live under the British rule was a guarantee for the security of life and property. It does not speak well for the prestige of the Government that this confidence should be shaken in the least.

SULABH DAINIK,  
June 19th, 1895.

16. The *Sulabh Dainik* of the 19th June draws the attention of Government to the growing evil of rain-gambling in Calcutta. The evil has assumed serious proportions and must be speedily checked.

(b)—Working of the Courts.

CHARU MIHIR,  
June 11th, 1895.

17. The *Charu Mihir* of the 11th June cannot understand what the authorities meant by granting licenses under the Arms Act to female zamindars in the Mymensingh district. Jnanada Sundari Chaudhurani, zamindar of Atharabari, and several other female zamindars in the Mymensingh district, enabling them to use fire-arms, but not enabling their attendants or followers to do so!

CHARU MIHIR,

18. The same paper says that the appointment of civil court amla and peons in the Mymensingh district by the Judge's sheristadar is causing much dissatisfaction to the public and to the amla and peons. As the Judge cannot, owing to pressure of work, see to this matter himself, he ought to leave at least the power of selection to the local Munsifs and Subordinate Judges. Or he may delegate the power of selection to one of the Subordinate Judges.

MURSHIDABAD  
HITAISHI,  
June 12th, 1895.

19. The *Murshidabad Hitaishi* of the 12th June says that the reward that is offered by Government to its officers for information that would lead to conviction in certain cases, is a prolific source of mischief, as those who expect to obtain such rewards, do not, in many cases, shrink from getting up false witnesses. Government is requested to abolish this mischievous system of offering rewards for information.

DARUSSALTANAT  
AND URDU GUIDE,  
June 13th, 1895.

20. The *Darussaltanat and Urdu Guide* of the 13th June says that some competent Musalman Munsifs ought to be promoted to Subordinate Judgeships in Bengal, and recommends for such promotion Mr. Mahmood Hossein, Barrister-at-law, who is at present officiating as a Subordinate Judge. His ability is well-known to the Calcutta High Court.

PRATIKAR,  
June 14th, 1895.

21. The *Pratihar* of the 14th June complains that the people of Murshidabad are put to great inconvenience on account of there being only one civil court amin in the whole district. One amin is not able to cope with the multifarious work of the district civil court, and when that functionary is absent from the court on a tour of surveying, the work of the court stands almost at a standstill. One more amin is greatly wanted in Murshidabad.

BHARAT MITRA,  
June 15th, 1895.

22. The *Bharat Mitra* of the 15th June asks the following questions:—  
Which of the Judges of the Court of Small Causes, Calcutta, is in the habit of taking bribes? Is Mr. Abul Hossein in a position to answer this question? Which of the Judges of the Court of Small Causes is impartial and does not show partiality to his friends and relatives in disposing of cases? Can Mr. K. M. Chatterji answer this question? Why does not Government give promotion to those veterans of the Court, who are administering justice wisely and impartially?



23. According to the *Sanjivani* of the 15th June, Lieutenant Drake-Brockman of the Commissariat Departments, Peshwar, struck a Musalman on the head with a

SANJIVANI,  
June 15th, 1895.

"Badzat." stick, and called out to him in Hindusthani, "নিকাল যাও বদ্জাত" (go out you low-born fellow). The injured man charged the Lieutenant before the Cantonment Magistrate with assault and defamation. The charge was proved by the evidence of Lieutenant Fleming and other witnesses and the accused himself admitted that he had assaulted the man and called him "বদ্জাত". The Cantonment Magistrate however was of opinion that the word "বদ্জাত" was not defamatory and acquitted the accused on the second count of the charge. He, however, convicted him of the charge of assault and fined him ten rupees. The District Judge of Peshwar was of the same opinion as the Cantonment Magistrate. This being the case, it is necessary that the meaning of the word should be interpreted by the High Court, and the question whether it is defamatory or not settled by it once for all. It should also be settled whether—"বদ্জাত" being an innocent expression—the natives can apply the word to Europeans with impunity or whether the Europeans alone shall have the privilege of applying it to the natives. To the people of this country the word "বদ্জাত" is highly defamatory, but if the Europeans do not take it in that light they will not, it is to be hoped, take any offence if a native happens to call them "বদ্জাত".

24. The *Mihir* of the 15th June has the following:—

MIHIR,  
June 15th, 1895.

"A popular Deputy Magistrate." The Turkish Government knows how to protect the good and punish the wicked; and hence thefts and robberies are rare in Turkey. But under the civilised British rule, thefts and dacoities are, as is shown by the Administration reports of Government, ever on the increase. So bold and desperate are these criminals that the lives of the judicial officers are not unoften in danger. A story appeared a few days ago in the newspapers that a criminal, who was on his trial before Babu Radhamadhab Basu, Deputy Magistrate of Muzaffarpur, threw his iron-shod shoe at that officer, which, however, fortunately missed its aim. This Deputy Magistrate, however, is so good a man that when the constables were belabouring this rash offender as they were taking him to jail, he forbade them to do so. This kindness of the Deputy Magistrate can not be too highly praised, for the number of those who can treat even their foes as friends is very small in these days. It is our belief that if the officials were, as a rule, kind and just instead of being tyrannical and oppressive, crime would diminish from the effects of their kind admonitions. But unfortunately Government, as a rule, rewards oppressive judicial officers and these officers, therefore, do not hesitate to do wrong. The result is that turbulent people are often guilty of riots and affrays from a spirit of contention, and when hauled up before a Criminal Court, either murder the judicial officers or throw their shoes at them. We are, therefore, glad to see a kind-hearted man like Radhamadhab Babu in the rank of judicial officers. Wherever this gentleman has been posted, he has won golden opinions from both Hindus and Musalmans, and both Hindus and Musalmans wept when they have parted from him. When he was Subdivisional Officer of Katwa, his catholic sympathies encouraged the poor Musalman cultivators of that place to approach him with a prayer for the repair of their dilapidated prayer-house, and the kind-hearted Deputy Magistrate promptly bestirred himself in the matter and had the prayer-house repaired with subscriptions collected from the wealthy Musalman gentlemen of the subdivision. We shall be very glad to see an officer, so popular and with such wide sympathies, rewarded by Government.

25. The *Bankura Darpan* of the 16th June complains that cooly recruiting abuses are growing in Bankura, as the local Deputy Magistrates are in the habit of dealing with

BANKURA DARPAN,  
June 16th, 1895.

Punishment in cooly cases. the offenders very leniently. In a recent case, a number of cooly-recruiters of Raipur were charged with the offence of decoying two men, beating them severely, and forcing them to sign the contract. The accused were let off with a small fine. In another case, two recruiters, Surya and Mahesh, were prosecuted for having forcibly carried Barada Dasi, the daughter of one Bhavani



Sardar, to the local cooly depôt. The accused were sentence to three months imprisonment. No one would like an innocent cooly-recruiter to be punished, but when the guilt of the accused is proved, he ought not to be let off with a slight punishment; otherwise, there will be no check on the cooly-recruiting abuses.

DAINIK-O-SAMACHAR  
CHANDRIKA,  
June 16th, 1895.

26. The *Dainik-o-Samachar Chandrika* of the 16th June says that Mr. Herald, the chief man in the unjust conviction in the Balladhan murder case, was censured by the High Court as well as by the Government of India.

Mr. Herald, Magistrate of Faridpur. This, however, was sufficient recommendation to Sir Charles Elliott, who brought over Mr. Herald from Assam and made him Magistrate of Faridpur. But in Faridpur, too, Mr. Herald has not failed to earn notoriety. A boat, belonging to one Taran Chandra Basu, was plundered by some dacoits, and the offence was proved in the investigation that was made by the Police and the Deputy Magistrate. But Mr. Herald ordered the prosecution of Taran Basu for having instituted a false case. Taran Basu sought the protection of the High Court, which quashed the order for prosecution against him and censured the conduct of Mr. Herald. The first censure by the High Court secured for Mr. Herald the Magistrateship of Faridpur, and it is a wonder that this second censure has not yet raised him to the Commissionership of the Dacca Division. The question of this new freak on the part of Mr. Herald was raised in Parliament, and Mr. Fowler held out hopes of an enquiry into the matter. An explanation will certainly be submitted, and Sir Charles will as certainly plead the cause of Mr. Herald in that explanation. The Viceroy, too, will probably support the Lieutenant-Governor as he did in the case of Mr. Beatson-Bell. Government does not care at all for the High Court's censure. Every officer who is censured by the High Court is found to be rewarded by Government and this is specially the case in Bengal. Messrs. Phillips and Bell are instances in point and we have now a fresh instance in Mr. Herald. Sir Charles Elliott's manner of ruling is indeed very nice. Another such autocratic Governor is nowhere to be found.

(c)—Jails.

HITAISHI,  
June 18th, 1895.

27. The *Hitaishi* of the 18th June thus criticises the report on the Jail Administration in Bengal for the year 1894-95:—

It appears from the report that there was a rise in the jail mortality during the year under notice. The Lieutenant-Governor attributes this rise to the unprecedented prevalence of malaria in the Bengal jails during the last year, but it appears from the report itself that mortality from fever is but a fraction of the total mortality, only 24 per cent. of deaths being due to that cause. The rest is due to cholera and bowel-complaints. The Lieutenant-Governor seems to be very much anxious to improve the health of the jail population, but all his efforts in this direction have proved abortive, simply because he has not discovered the true cause of the heavy mortality in the Bengal jails. In the opinion of the Government, the inspecting medical officers of jails are solely responsible for the health of their inmates. This is a great mistake. The health of the prisoners depends more on the jailor than on the medical officer who inspects it. This inspecting officer is generally the Civil Surgeon of the district. After doing his office work, he has very little time at his disposal to devote to the inspection of jail. He cannot be present there more than half an hour every day, and in that short space of time he has to attend to a number of duties which takes one's breath out to enumerate. It is impossible for him to superintend, as he is required to do, over every part of the jail administration. In fact, the details of jail administration, including the sanitation of jails, are left to the care of the jailor. In Central jails there are resident medical officers to look after the health of the inmates, but they are low-paid officers and are mere tools in the hands of the Jail Superintendent; they have no hand in the management of jails.

It is thus quite clear that the jailor is the person on whom depends entirely the health of the jail population. But he is never held responsible for the sanitation of the jail. He is never rewarded for its improvement, nor is he taken to task when it deteriorates. His sole care seems to be to economise



the jail expenditure and increase the sources of its income. Under these circumstances, he tries his best to treat the prisoners as machines and get as much work as he can out of them. The health of the prisoners is thus sacrificed to economy. They are hardworked, and with their shattered constitutions they easily succumb to the attacks of a disease. The health of the jail population will not improve as long as the jailor is not held responsible for it, and he is not encouraged to improve the sanitary condition of the jail placed in his charge.

## (d)—Education.

28. The *Darussaltanat and Urdu Guide* of the 13th June strongly dis- approves of the proposal made to appoint Mr. Cleghorn, Head-master of the Collinga Branch School, as Head-master of the Calcutta Madrassa. The Head-master ship of the Calcutta Madrassa. It seems that this gentleman, if appointed to the Calcutta Madrassa, will have none but empty benches to lecture, for the students will leave the school in a body.

DARUSSALTANAT  
AND URDU GUIDE,  
June 13th, 1895.

29. The *Vikrampur* of the 13th June is of opinion that Mr. Martin's arrangement with a well-known firm to get the lives of the members of the Education Department insured at cheaper rates comes as a blessing to the poor teachers and inspectors, most of whom at the time of their death leave their family in a helpless condition. These men ought, therefore, to take advantage of this rare opportunity. Under the Bengal Government, the promotion of the members of the Education Department is very slow, and it is therefore all the more necessary on their part that they should welcome every means to increase the chances of their leaving behind something to their family.

VIKRAMPUR,  
June 13th, 1895.

30. The following letter appears in the *Hitavadi* of the 14th June:—  
Mr. Editor,

HITAVADI,  
June 14th, 1895.

*Nutan Path.* No sooner was Pandit Iswar Chandra Vidya-sagar's cremation pile extinguished than Babu Chandra Nath Basu's *Nutan Path* replaced his *Bodhodaya* as the Bengali text-book in the lower primary examination. But you will admit that there never has been published a more appropriate text-book for that examination than the *Bodhodaya*. My object in writing this letter is neither to compare the *Nutan Path* with the *Bodhodaya*, nor to point out the novelties in the former text-book. But for the sake of truth, it must be admitted that the *Nutan Path* is only a most vile imitation of the inferior parts of the *Bodhodaya*; and its reading will do more harm than good to the boys. One, therefore, fails to understand why that very superior book, the *Bodhodaya*, written in a language sweet as nectar, was removed from the list of text-books. Is it because the authorities do not like to pay much attention to primary education? Babu Chandra Nath, too, is to be humbly asked if the spotless fame of a highly educated man like him will not be tarnished by his forcing *gomaya* (cow-dung) into the undeveloped brains of tender boys for the sake of filthy lucre. The correctness of this statement of ours might be completely proved by putting side by side passages from the two books. But, as we have said before, we are not going to compare the worth of the two books in this letter. We are only drawing your attention to the subject, because, being teachers, we, of all, have to suffer most from the appointment of bad text-books. It is hoped that you will publish this letter in a corner of your paper with your comments on it.

The *Nutan Path* has unjustly and unlawfully displaced the *Bodhodaya*. This letter is submitted to all learned men as a representation on behalf of the *Bodhodaya* for the restitution of its rights. It is hoped the authorities will favourably consider it. And Babu Chandra Nath is requested to show his magnanimity and nobleness by giving back to the *Bodhodaya* what is its due.

NISHI CHANDRA BISWAS,  
*Secretary of the Bisweswari Middle English School.*

31. A correspondent of the *Samay* of the 14th June observes that if the writers in the *Samay* and other newspapers are convinced that the Inspectors and Sub-Inspectors of Schools adopt questionable tactics to get their

SAMAY,  
June 14th, 1895.

Newspaper criticisms on text-books.



books selected by the Text-Book Committee, they ought to put an interpellation on the subject in the Legislative Council through the Hon'ble Surendranath Banerji. The fact is, the gentlemen connected with the leading vernacular papers in the country have as much interest in the selection of text-books as the Inspectors and Sub-Inspectors of Schools. For instance, a brother of the proprietor of the *Bangavasi* has got a book called *Krishi Sopan*, the Joint-Editor of the *Sahachar* has his *Charubodh*, Babu Dwarkanath of the *Sanjivani* has his *Kavigatha* and a writer in the *Hitavadi* has his *Suniti Sandarbha*. The Editors of these newspapers, therefore, are as much interested parties as the Inspectors and Sub-Inspectors of Schools, and their criticisms of the latter cannot therefore count for much in the eye of the public.

SANJIVANI,  
June 15th, 1895.

32. The *Sanjivani* of the 15th June observes that the Calcutta University has discontinued the practice of appointing professors and teachers examiners for the subjects which they have to teach, as they may not always resist the temptation of acquainting their pupils beforehand with the questions they may very likely put at the examinations. This salutary rule is bearing good fruit, but unfortunately the University has violated its own rule in one instance at least. For the last few years it has been appointing Babu Ramaprasanna Mukhopadhyaya, the Uriya teacher in the Cuttack College, examiner in Uriya. An objection having been made to this selection, the question came to be discussed by the Syndicate, when it was urged that Babu Ramaprasanna was the only Uriya-knowing man of culture in the province who could be appointed an examiner by the Calcutta University, which was obliged to violate its own rule in this case simply out of necessity. It is not, however, true that Babu Ramaprasanna is the only Uriya-knowing man of culture in the province. There are Babus Radhanath Rai, Madhusudan Rai and Chaturbhuj Pattanayak, B.A., all of whom are Uriya scholars of talents, and could be appointed Uriya examiners by the Calcutta University. The Calcutta University has committed another mistake in appointing Sheikh Muhammad Gilany, Persian Examiner for the ensuing session. This gentleman has lately filed a schedule in the Insolvency Court and ought not to have been appointed an Examiner. It is to be hoped that the Calcutta University will be more careful in future.

MIHIR,  
June 15th, 1895.

33. The *Mihir* of the 15th June has the following:—

The Mohsin Fund.

In view of the fall off in the income from the Mohsin Fund, on account of the reduction of the interest on Government papers, it has been proposed that the students, who will be aided from that fund, should now pay half their school fees, instead of only one-third as hitherto, and that those students alone who are really poor should be granted aid from that fund. We would suggest that none but those who really need help should be aided from the fund, but that the present rule, regarding the payment of two-thirds of the aided student's school fees from the fund should remain unaltered, for any reduction of that aid will stand in the way of their receiving any education whatever. We hope that the wise Lieutenant-Governor will adopt this suggestion, and thereby benefit poor Musalman students.

(e)—Local Self-Government and Municipal Administration.

DARUSSALTANAT  
AND URDU GUIDE,  
June 13th, 1895.

34. The *Darussaltanat and Urdu Guide* of the 13th June complains of the

Water-supply in Calcutta during  
Musalman festivals.

deficiency of the water-supply which the Musalman community of Calcutta suffer from on the occasion of their festivals. The Calcutta Municipality ought to supply water all over the town on those occasions just as it does on the occasion of Hindu festivals.

MIHIR,  
June 15th, 1895.

35. The *Mihir* of the 15th June says that of the suburban municipalities

Want of water-supply in Metiaburuj, near Calcutta.

that have been amalgamated with the Calcutta Municipality, Metiaburuj contains the largest number of residents, and it is strange that the Municipality does not attend to the question of water-supply in so populous a place. Had the place been inhabited by Babus instead of poor labourers, arrangements would have been made long ago for the supply of filtered water



to it. The poor labourers proposed to petition the Lieutenant-Governor for the supply of water, but neither the indolent scions of the Nawab family of Metiaburuj, nor the Babus would help them to forward the petition. Their petition has, however, been at length sent to his Honour by the kindhearted Nawab Abdus Sobhan Chaudhuri. It is a matter of deep regret that the inhabitants of a part of the metropolis of the civilised British Empire in India should be compelled to drink dirty tank water, and thereby die of diseases in large numbers. Though living in the vicinity of the river Hooghly, the inhabitants of Metiaburuj can not fetch water from it to drink, as the buildings erected by the late Nawab Wazed Ali Khan, on the bank of the river, occupy a space of nearly three miles, and it is not convenient to make a detour of all that space in order to fetch water. Water pipes have been laid in the Nimakmahal road and these pipes can easily be extended as far as Metiaburuj. But no one attends to the matter.

36. The Calcutta Municipality, says the *Sanjivani* of the 15th June, is a sink of festering evils, the Engineering Department being specially notorious for its mismanagement. Mr. Kimber, the Engineer of the Calcutta Municipality, has gone home on leave of absence for four months, after the lapse of which he is most probably not coming back to this country. There were many candidates who applied for this post, of whom Rai Madhav Chunder Bahadur was far and away the best qualified, and the public expected that the Calcutta Municipality would appoint him to the vacant post. They have however, been sorely disappointed, and the Municipal Commissioners, of whom the majority are natives, have ignored the superior claims of a native candidate, and selected a European candidate of decidedly inferior merit. The vote was taken by ballot, and the names of the native Commissioners, who voted for Mr. Silk, are not known. Otherwise, their names could be published in the public prints, and the rate-payers, who have elected them Commissioners, might be warned against returning them in future. Were these worthless sycophants really convinced of Mr. Silk's superior attainments by the Chairman's argument that he was long a co-lodger of Mr. Kimber and had therefore caught the contagion of his ability? It was natural for the European Commissioners to vote for their countryman in a body, but that some Native Commissioners were coaxed into voting for him is what makes one hang down his head in shame. It is a matter of regret that a man of the Rai Bahadur's sterling qualifications was defeated by two votes only.

SANJIVANI,  
June 15th, 1895.

37. With reference to the river-water resolution of the Bengal Government, the *Bankura Darpan* of the 16th June observes that the prohibition of the highly insani-  
The river-water resolution. tary practice of throwing dead bodies into the water will not in any way militate against the Hindu's religion. There is no injunction laid down in the Hindu shastra that the throwing of the dead body into the water will in any way benefit the manes of the deceased person. It is enough for the spiritual benefit of the departed soul to deposit his bones in the Ganges, and this latter practice is not calculated to pollute the water. As for the poor who throw dead bodies into the water on account of poverty, the Police or the Municipality should undertake to burn or bury these bodies at the public expense.

BANKURA DARPAN,  
June 16th, 1895.

38. A correspondent of the same paper complains against the Sonamukhi Municipality. It has heavily assessed the rate-payers, and has increased their rates four-fold. It has reduced the amount of its grant to the local school, and is going to enforce sections 252 and 253 of the Municipal Act by virtue of which vendors of medicines will have to take out licenses. This will raise the prices of medicines, and will be a source of great hardship to the poor villagers. There was no complaint of adulteration of medicine in Sonamukhi, and there is, therefore, no necessity of enforcing the above sections of the Municipal Act. The Municipality is also in the habit of selling half-anna forms on which any application to be made to the Municipality for reduction of assessment is to be written. These forms have to be posted to the Chairman, but ultimately come back to the Municipal office. Some arrangement should be made, so that they may be lodged in the Municipal office or with the Vice-Chairman.

BANKURA DARPAN,



DACCA GAZETTE,  
June 17th, 1895.

39. The *Dacca Gazette* of the 17th June draws the attention of the Government to the highly unsatisfactory condition of the charitable dispensaries in Bengal. One such charitable dispensary under the care and management of one medical practitioner is open to the patients of about twenty-five villages. The crush of out-door patients in a dispensary like this is very great, and the medical practitioner is not able to cope with them. He is, moreover, an under-paid officer, and has to eke out his small income with private practice. The time at his disposal is, therefore, limited, and he cannot pay sufficient attention to the patients who flock at the dispensary. He cannot also resist the temptation of distributing medicines of an inferior quality to his patients, always taking care to misappropriate the stock of medicines of a superior quality.

It is highly necessary that this state of things should be mended. And the writer proposes the following remedy for the evil complained of:—Let the money spent to defray the expenses of these dispensaries be utilized to found a number of scholarships to be tenable by persons who pass the final examination of a medical school and begin to practise in the mufassal. The scholarships should be distributed over a particular area, and among a fixed number of villages, and they should be tenable under the following conditions:—(a) The person who receives the scholarship shall establish a dispensary in the place in which he commences his practice, and maintain it at his own cost at least for one year. (b) The value of the scholarship shall be determined by the merit of the holder and the status of the dispensary he opens. (c) The recipient of a scholarship shall forfeit it if he cannot give sufficient proof of his proficiency in course of one year. Special scholarships should also be founded for the encouragement of qualified *kavirajas* and homœopaths. The medical practitioner holding one of the above mentioned scholarships should be entitled to a special scholarship created for the purpose, if he carries on his practice with proficiency in the place to which his scholarship is attached for a period of twenty years. In this way, the best qualified medical practitioners should be encouraged, and a healthy competition among them will lead to the establishment of dispensaries in all the important towns and villages, which will benefit the people far more than the existing charitable dispensaries.

The writer sums up his remarks as follows:—

- (a) The existing charitable dispensaries have not benefited the people. The medicines available there are generally of an inferior quality, and are not cheap.
- (b) The money spent to maintain these dispensaries should be utilised in founding scholarships.
- (c) These scholarships should be divided into three classes.
- (d) These scholarships should be tenable by passed medical practitioners founding dispensaries in the mufassal.
- (e) Special scholarships should be created to encourage qualified homœopaths and *kavirajas*.
- (f) The scholarships should be tenable only by such medical practitioners as maintain dispensaries at their own cost at least for one year.
- (g) The scholarship should be forfeited if a medical practitioner cannot show proficiency in course of one year.
- (h) A special scholarship should be awarded to a medical practitioner who maintains a dispensary and carries on his practice with proficiency for a period of twenty years.
- (i) These dispensaries should be called "circle dispensaries" and medical practitioners holding such scholarships should be regarded as public officers.

(f)—Questions affecting the land.

PRATIKAR,  
June 14th, 1895.

40. The *Pratihar* of the 14th June complains of the hardship of the dāk cess. The rates of the cess as well as the time of collection are frequently changed. If a person fails to pay the cess in due time, he has to pay afterwards double the cess, with interest on the same for the period it remains unpaid. This is really harassing.



41. The *Bankura Darpan* of the 16th June complains against the way

BANKURA DARPAN,  
June 16th, 1895.

Settlement of ghatwal lands in  
Bankura.

the settlement of *ghatwal* lands is being carried on in Bankura. These *ghatwal* lands are of two kinds:—(1) rent-free and (2) rent-paying. Of the latter class, some pay rent to the Government and some to the zamindar. The Government is going to entrust to the zamindar the task of collecting rent from all classes of *ghatwal* lands. It does not matter to the public as to who is to collect rent and what will be the amount of the rent fixed, for the question is to be settled exclusively between the *ghatwals* and the zamindars. It is a matter of complaint, however, that the settlement which is going to be made is not to be made permanent, and under its terms the rent will be liable to be increased in future. This is not certainly fair and it is objectionable that the Government is forcing the *ghatwals* to enter into such a contract against their will. The complaints of the *ghatwals* are not heard by the Settlement Officers and they do not know where to appeal against their decision. The lands of private individuals are also being taken possession of and declared to be *ghatwal* lands and their complaints are not listened to by the Settlement Officers. The Government has not yet passed any law converting *ghatwal* lands into public property, and in making a settlement of them they are virtually counting the chickens before they have been hatched.

42. The *Sulabh Dainik* of the 18th June points out the defects of the existing system of collecting the *dâk* cess. The rate

SULABH DAINIK,  
June 18th, 1895.

The *dâk* cess.

of the *dâk* cess is not fixed, but is determined by the amount of expenditure likely to be incurred during a particular year. The zamindar is, therefore, left quite in the dark about the amount of cess he has to pay, and he goes on paying the tax at the rate at which he paid it in a previous year. Thus every year there stands a small arrear against his name, and it goes on accumulating for several years without his knowledge, when one day he is served with a peremptory notice calling on him to pay off his arrears within a fixed time. The arrear is generally a trifling sum, but the notice is served too late, and the zamindar has to incur a large amount of expenditure in order to deposit a small amount of cess. Who is to be held responsible for this? Not surely the zamindar who would have been saved much trouble and expense had the Government taken steps to inform him beforehand of the amount of cess he was to pay for a particular year. And in giving such a notice the Government would not have incurred much expense. To take an instance in point, the zamindars of Hilkhi in the 24-Parganas had lately to spend fifteen rupees in order to pay off an arrear amounting to one rupee and four annas. Anomalous and defective as the existing system is, it is turned into a source of great oppression and harassment to the zamindars by the clerks of the Collector's office who often issue notices and certificates under the provisions of the Public Demands Recovery Act without caring to ascertain whether the persons against whom they are issued have already paid off their arrears or not. These men are also in the habit of taking bribe and they often purposely issue such notices in order to harass the zamindars and make them pay something to gratify their greed. The zamindars will be simply ruined if this state of things is not soon mended.

(g)—*Railways and communications including canals and irrigation.*

43. The *Burdwan Sanjivani* of the 11th June says that on the morning of

BURDWAN SANJIVANI,  
June 11th, 1895.

Railway complaints.

the 5th June last when the down Delhi train touched at the Saktigarh station near Burdwan, the carriages containing female passengers remained beyond the platform and they were shut by latches from outside near the bottom of the doors. The women, who wanted to alight being unable to do so cried out; and their cries having attracted the notice of a chaprasi, he opened the door of one of the carriages, and the women therein alighted with great difficulty. A woman in another carriage also wanted to get down, but the train having started before the chaprasi could reach her carriage she had to go down to the next station, and was able to pay the excess fare by the kindness of another female passenger.

Again, on the evening of the same day, when an up local passenger train from Calcutta reached Saktigarh at 7-30 or 8 P.M., the train was started before



a female passenger had time to get down. This sort of inattention on the part of the railway employes causes serious inconvenience to passengers and often leads to accidents.

ARASWAT PATRA,  
June 15th, 1895.

44. The *Saraswat Patra* of the 15th June contains the following observations in an article on the Assensole rape case :—

The Assensole rape case.

Englishmen can have no idea of the enormous value which a Hindu woman puts upon her chastity. To her it is a priceless jewel. In English society chastity is not infrequently bartered for a small price, husbands and wives divorce one another on the ground of adultery, and these divorced husbands and wives do not feel any difficulty in getting consorts for themselves. How can the members of such a society appraise chastity at its true worth? How can they realize the pangs of a Hindu woman who is robbed of her chastity? The Hindu woman did not hesitate to burn herself on her husbands' funeral pyre rather than live without him. To her, her husband is a god. Persecuted by him she would live by begging rather than exchange her chastity for the matchless beauty and untold riches of another man. How can an Englishman adequately sympathize with her? It is therefore no wonder that the European Manager of the East Indian Railway should let off with a slight punishment the scoundrels who outraged the chastity of a Hindu girl.

(h)—General.

CHARU MIHIR,  
June 11th, 1895.

45. The *Charu Mihir* of the 11th June draws the Government's attention to the mischief which is being done among ignorant people by the sale of cheap quinine. Not knowing how to use it, they take it at the very commencement of an attack of fever, and suffer from the evil effects of so doing. Government should get proper directions for using the medicine framed by an experienced physician and distribute them with the drug.

Sale of cheap quinine by Government.

CHARU MIHIR.

46. In reference to the objections taken in the issue of the *Charu Mihir* for the 21st May last to the appointment of the Sub-Registrar of Netrakona as the Officiating Special Sub-Registrar of Mymensingh (R. N. P. for 1st June, paragraph 31), a correspondent of the same paper says that the ability with which Abdul Ali Khan, the Officiating Special Sub-Registrar, is discharging his duties, and the satisfaction he has given to the District Registrar and the Registration Inspectors make it clear that the District Registrar has done nothing wrong by giving him the post in supersession of the claims of even senior officers. This Sub-Registrar has been spoken of in very high terms by the 1st Registration Inspector.

The Officiating Special Sub-Registrar of Mymensingh.

HITAVADI,  
June 14th, 1895.

47. The *Hitavadi* of the 14th June, has the following :—

Official oppressions in Deoghur, in the Sonthal Parganas district.

We revert to the subject of the official oppressions in Deoghur in the Sonthal Parganas district, in the hope that our writing may direct the Lieutenant-Governor's attention to the matter, and induce him to redress the people's wrongs.

We are in possession of facts proving that the officials in Deoghur serve in one department, kith and kin, and often leave the subdivision without taking formal leave. But these irregularities do not affect the people much. It is the oppressions which they can no longer bear, and it is the illegal orders which they are compelled to carry out without uttering a word of complaint, to which the Lieutenant-Governor's attention is particularly drawn.

Mr. Heard's illegal order to certain ghatwals was referred to in our last article on the subject (R. N. P. for 8th June, paragraph 20). We will now give a case which will show how the Pilgrims' Lodging-house Act is being worked in Deoghur. In December last one Babulal Shaha, the owner of a house intended to be let, was compelled to take out a license under the Act; but his license was afterwards cancelled on the ground that the privy in the house in question did not fulfil the requirements of the law. Babulal urged that he never let his house to pilgrims, and that he had let it to a gentleman under an agreement for three months, and could not, therefore, ask him to vacate it before the expiry of that term. Babu Asutosh Mukarji, Sub-Deputy Magistrate, who heard Babulal's case, decided it in favour of the defendant, on the ground that the



house which was owned by Babulal did not come under the purview of the Pilgrims' Lodging-house Act.

This decision, however, did not end Babu Lal's troubles. Mr. Heard is not the man to give up his *zid* so easily. He differed from the Sub-Deputy Magistrate, and sent up the case to Mr. Bernard, the Deputy Commissioner, with his opinion on it. Mr. Bernard, a raw young man, agreed with Mr. Heard and reversed Babu Asutosh's decision, stating that the Act was not intended for pilgrims' lodging-houses only. Babulal was accordingly punished for violating the law. But did not Mr. Bernard see that the word 'pilgrims' is used in the preamble of the Act? Not only Babulal but many other house owners have been in this way oppressed in the name of the law. Even shop-keepers who let out portions of their shops to other shop-keepers are being brought under the operation of the Act. Licenses are also withheld unless there are suitable privies in the shops. The owners of petty shops cannot afford to have privies of their own, but use the public latrines. Many of them have therefore been compelled to shut up shop.

Under the Lodging-house Act, a license once granted remains in force for one year. But before the grant of such a license, the Health Officer must certify that the house is in a fit condition to be let out to lodgers. Many house-owners who obtained licenses under the old Health Officer have had their licenses cancelled by Mr. Heard within the year, on the report of the new Health Officer, and are being required to vacate the houses at once. Considering that the houses are in the same condition in which licenses in regard to them were issued under the old Health Officer, it is difficult to see why the new Health Officer is taking objection to their being used as lodging-houses.

48. The *Bankura Darpan* of the 10th June complains against the Special Sub-Registrar of Bankura. Sometime ago, he laid down that all documents presented for registration should be copied the very day they were presented and the documents returned to their owners. Unfortunately, however, only a limited number of documents are accepted on a particular day and people are thus put to great inconvenience on account of this. The Sub-Registrar is also in the habit of abusing a person who may happen to request him to accept a document for registration—so much so that some persons are already talking of prosecuting him for defamation. The registration of documents again, seem to entirely depend on the sweet will of the muharrir, and the Sub-Registrar does not watch over the conduct of that functionary. This scandalous state of things should be soon mended.

BANKURA DARPAN,  
June 10th, 1895.

49. The *Hitaishi* of the 18th June says that the Government has reduced the postal rates in the case of newspapers, but the reduction is not sufficient and the rates should be reduced still further. The people of this country are very poor and they cannot afford to read any but very cheap newspapers. But the cheapness of newspapers is of no value when the rate of postage is high. At present a pice paper has to pay a pice in order to be transmitted from one place to another. This is a great hardship to the poor readers of newspapers. If the rates are reduced, the circulation of newspapers will increase fourfold and that will more than compensate the Government for its loss.

HITAISHI,  
June 18th, 1895.

### III.—LEGISLATIVE.

50. Referring to the suggestions made by the Government of India for the amendment of the Court of Wards Act, the *Charu Mihir* of the 11th June says that no one will support the proposal which relates to the bringing of any estate under the control of the Court of Wards at the option of Government. It is not desirable that Government should possess the power of placing under the Court of Wards the estates of proprietors who are themselves able to manage them. No European code will approve of such a course, and its adoption in India will create unnecessary suspicion in the public mind in regard to the intentions of Government.

CHARU MIHIR,  
June 11th, 1895.

Bringing an estate under the Court of Wards at the requisition of the heirs or relatives of the present proprietor will have the effect of saving



extravagant zamindars, whose number is not small in Bengal, from ruin. Some such provision in the Court of Wards Act has become absolutely necessary in the interest of a host of improvident Hindu and Musalman zamindars in the Mymensingh district in particular.

Under the existing law, only estates which pay revenue to Government can be brought under the management of the Court of Wards. But the proposals made by Government for amending the law remove this restriction. All estates of whatever kind can, under the proposed amendment, be brought under such management. Considering that in Bengal the number of *Putni*, *Mauras* and *Pattai* taluks is by no means small, such a change in the law will have a very wholesome effect.

HITAVADI,  
June 14th, 1895.

51. The *Hitavadi* of the 14th June has the following:—

How laws are made in India.

In any other civilised country of the world except India it requires much time and investigation to pass or amend a law. A Bill can be passed into law, only if it survives the agitation and discussion which take place in regard to it throughout the country and over the space of several years, and if its necessity can be clearly proved to the country. In other countries the legislature has to put forward all its energy in order to prove this necessity, because if it fails to prove it, it cannot even think of making such a law. Very different, however, is the case in this country. Here a law is first passed, and then attempts are made to make the best use of it. Sir Charles Elliott, for instance, says whenever a new law is passed that he will do his best to put it to use. Last year when by their amendment of section 44 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, the authorities assumed to themselves the power of throwing anybody into prison, Sir Charles proudly observed that he would do his best to put the new provision of the law into execution. And His Honour made a similar utterance in regard to the new Police Act at the time of its passing. A law is thus first passed in this country, and it is then placed in the hands of the white civilians, who, by the bye, are always too much wearied and worried by the heat, flies and mosquitoes of this moist climate, with the instruction that they should do their best to enforce it. It was urged against the Consent Act that there would arise no occasion to enforce it. And it has, as a matter of fact, been a dead letter, except that now and then the police authorities when turning over the pages of the Penal Code find that section 375 has been left unused in a particular part of the country for a long time, and institute a case under it, to prove that there was necessity for the amendment that was made in the law. In India, therefore, a law is first passed, and evidence is next collected to justify its passing.

Now, as to the genesis of a new law. An official member of a legislative council has only to conceive the necessity of a new law, and a new law is made. This conception of the necessity of a new law may arise in the brain of an official member in the first instance, or having arisen in the brain of a District Magistrate, an Assistant Magistrate, an Assistant District Superintendent of Police, or, for the matter of that, a Police Inspector, may find its way upward to an official member of the legislature and find expression near him in a Bill on the subject. This was the process by which the Police Bill, after having originated in the North-Western Provinces, came to be proposed in the Viceroy's Council. Now that it is known that the Police Bill was even drafted in the North-Western Provinces, who can say that its idea was not first conceived by some Magistrate or Musalman Police Inspector under Sir Charles Crosthwaite? The very day following that on which an official member conceives the necessity of a new law, he drafts a Bill. It is true a conference is generally held with the Viceroy and the Law Member before a Bill is drafted, but such a conference is not necessary, if the Viceroy is a man of Lord Lansdowne's stamp. After conference, a notice is issued stating that member so and so will ask for leave to introduce such and such a Bill in the Council, and on obtaining leave, will introduce it. The asking for leave to introduce a Bill is a pure formality, for no member has yet been known not to have obtained it. After this, opinions regarding the necessity or otherwise of the Bill are received; and the non-official members may take this opportunity of gratifying their desire of saying anything against it. It is needless to say that from the very moment the notice is issued the official members begin to feel charmed with the justice and necessity of the proposed measure.



After the Bill is introduced, it is sent to the Local Governments for opinion. The Local Governments, on their part send it to the Divisional Commissioners and District Magistrates for the same purpose. In this way the opinion of the whole country, excluding of course the black population, is gathered in a few days, and ninety-nine per cent. of those consulted do not probably even go through the entire Bill, and express themselves in the stereotyped form—'It is an exceedingly nice Bill and there is nothing to object to in it'—and even if they read the Bill, they have no objection to make against it. And where an objection is made, the mover of the Bill takes little notice of it.

The Bill is next referred to a Select Committee, the majority of whose members are carefully chosen by the mover. There is little chance for any one who will not support the measure to find a seat in the Select Committee. And even if such members are taken into the Committee, they are outvoted at every step. They can write dissent minutes, but dissent minutes are nothing but labour, ink and paper wasted. When the Bill comes back from the Select Committee, the mover expatiates upon the opinions of its supporters and, taking care not even to allude to the adverse opinions, flatters himself that the credit of proving that the whole official community see the necessity of the measure is his, and assures the world that the natives will not eat their food or go to sleep if the Bill is not passed. He next moves that the Bill be passed, and the official members in a body vote for it. What can the non-official members do under these circumstances? If they are all present and vote in a body against the Bill, there is still an official majority. And if the official and non-official votes are equal, there is the casting vote of the president on the official side.

Such is the process by which a number of enactments are made in India every winter. These shackles of the law are forged for the Indians, but the Indians are allowed no hand in the forging thereof. With what marvellous ease are these Indian laws made! Let an official member only conceive the idea of a law and a new fetter is put round the legs of four hundred millions of the Indian people. The number of laws is thus daily increasing, but not so the people's happiness.

52. The *Darsak* of the 16th June says that now that the rules of Manu relating to the award of interest have become obsolete in Hindu society, and no definite law on the subject has hitherto been enacted by the

DARSAK,  
June 16th, 1895.

The Award of Interest Bill.

British Government affecting not only the Hindus but the entire population of India, it is necessary that the Bill introduced by Babu Mohini Mohun Rai should be passed. Act 32 of 1839 empowers the Courts to award the current bazar rate of interest where there is no specification of any rate in the hand note. But Act 28 of 1855 as amended by Act 14 of 1870 empowers the Courts to award the full rate of interest if the rate is specified in the contract. It is true the Madras and Bombay High Courts have occasionally followed the Hindu rule of *dandupat*. But the rule is not consistently followed, and there is much anomaly in its application.

An objection has been raised against the Bill to the effect that the hard-and-fast rule regarding interest which the measure will lay down, will make it difficult for people to get loans. This is a worthless objection, considering that the amount of the national debt in India has not been much affected by the reduction of interest from  $4\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. to  $3\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. within the last few years. People having money to employ will certainly prefer to invest it at any rate higher than  $3\frac{1}{2}$  per cent., the present rate on Government securities.

53. The *Dainik-o-Samachar Chandrika* of the 19th June learns that it is in the contemplation of the Government to bring forward a Bill in the Legislative Council increasing the scope and province of the Court of Wards.

DAINIK-O-SAMACHAR  
CHANDRIKA,  
June 19th, 1895.

Proposed amendment of the Court of Wards' law.

Since the passing of the Court of Wards Act the scope of the Court is being gradually extended. Originally it was the object of the Government to protect its own interests, and indirectly also those of the minor zamindars by preventing them from ruining their estates and thereby destroying the chance of the Government to realize its revenue. At first minor zamindars alone could be brought under the purview of the Court of Wards. Gradually, however, the definition of "Ward" was extended and made to apply to females, idiots, and the insane.



Under the existing law, a zamindar who has attained his majority may, if he likes, entrust the management of his estate to the Court of Wards. But the Government is not satisfied with the existing powers of the Court and is very likely to introduce a Bill in the Council, by virtue of which the Court of Wards will have the power to force an adult zamindar, under certain circumstances, to hand over to it the management of his estate. It will have also the power to take into its hands the management of the estate of a grown-up zamindar, on the representation of his heirs that he is likely to ruin the estate by his spendthrift conduct and mismanagement. The proposal to manage an adult person's estate against his will could be seriously made in no other country than India. If a man's incapacity to properly manage his property gives the Government the power to take its management into its own hands, there are very few men who could then enjoy the freedom of managing their own property. As for the proposal to defend the interests of an heir by compelling a man to give up the management of his estate, it is in direct opposition to the principle which has given a man the power to disinherit his lawful heir by virtue of the provisions of the law of testamentary succession. But this is not all. The Government has also the mind to introduce a clause into the contemplated Bill, by virtue of which the creditors of a zamindar will forfeit their dues if they, on the service of a notice, do not forthwith assert their claims when his estate passes into the hands of the Court of Wards. This provision will make itself felt as a great hardship on the creditors of a zamindar. The talukdars, it is also said, will, like the zamindars, come under the purview of the Court of Wards if the contemplated measure is passed. The measure, it appears, is a heroic one, but there seems to be no immediate necessity for it.

#### IV.—NATIVE STATES.

SAHACHAR,  
June 12th, 1895.

##### 4. The *Sahachar* of the 12th June writes as follows:—

The Secretary of State's reply to the question of Mr. Seymour Keay dispels the hope of seeing justice being at last done to the Maharaja of Bhurtpur. The public will never know the cause of the deposition of the Maharaja. They must try to extract what comfort they can from Mr. Fowler's reply that the Government of India is convinced of the Maharaja's utter incapacity to rule his State, and that the Secretary of State and his Council have acquiesced in his deposition. In the opinion of the public, the Government here as well as in England has done grave injustice not only to the Maharaja of Bhurtpur, but also to the intelligent public opinion in England and in India. For all that we know, the Maharaja may be guilty of the charges laid at his door, and that an upright gentleman like Lord Elgin has thought it proper to depose him, should, so far as we are concerned, be like a guarantee for the justice of the Government's action. But we are by no means convinced that His Excellency's Council did not in this case lead him astray and betray him into the commission of an unjustifiable act. Even if the Maharaja was guilty, he ought not to have been punished without a public trial. It is true that the Government of Lord Elgin fully satisfied itself about the guilt of the Maharaja before it proceeded to punish him so severely. But the public want something more than the opinion of the Government, before they can undertake to pronounce their judgment upon him one way or another. They think that the Government has not acted properly in not giving the Maharaja the benefit of a public trial. The Government had no *locus standi* as against him, and in trying and punishing him, it played the part of prosecutor and judge at one and the same time. In doing so it has violated a fundamental principle of justice, and the Secretary of State and his Council, who are in this case to be regarded as the constituted Court of Appeal, have committed a flagrant act of injustice by upholding the decision of the Government of India without giving the Maharaja a hearing. It is also very strange that the British public and the British Parliament do not protest against the action of the Secretary of State. Since the time when Her Majesty's Government directly assumed the reins of administration, Parliament, which represents English public opinion, has always tried to concern itself in the administration of India, and the Secretary of State has virtually treated it with scant courtesy in not consulting its opinion before committing himself to such



an important measure as the one under notice. Her Majesty's Government has promised always to refrain from interfering with the administration of the Native States, and to treat their Chiefs as independent rulers within their respective territories. It cannot be said that this promise has been religiously kept in the present instance. A more upright and sagacious policy was followed in the case of Mulhar Rao. He was given the benefit of a public trial, and after his deposition, a prince of his line was raised to the throne. The Maharaja of Bhurtpur has been deposed without a trial, and no one has been appointed to be his successor. For the present, the Resident has been entrusted with the administration for a period of one year. If this is not annexation, we do not know what it is. If the Resident had been appointed to rule the State on behalf of the Maharaja without the latter being set aside, we might have had reason to think otherwise. We are sincere admirers of the justice and impartiality of British rule, and it is for this reason that we are protesting strongly against a policy which might appear to the public as tainted with selfishness. We believe that the Secretary of State is in all conscience bound to regulate the conduct of the Government of India. But in the present instance he has failed to discharge his duty properly by blindly acquiescing in the policy of the latter, and has thus forfeited the very right to his existence.

55. The *Sanjivani* of the 15th June writes as follows:—

Deposition of the Maharaja of Bhurtpur.

It was Lord Lansdowne who decided to depose the Maharaja of Bhurtpur, and Lord Elgin has only given effect to the decision of his predecessor. How

lightly, however, such questions of supreme importance are settled by the authorities is evident from the reply which the Secretary of State condescended to give to a question put by Mr. Seymour Keay regarding the deposition of the Maharaja of Bhurtpur. In his reply, the Secretary of State is reported to have observed that he had confirmed the policy of the Government of India regarding Bhurtpur. Let the world see how the Secretary of State and his Council do their duty. It is not difficult to know the nature of the grounds on which the policy of the Government is based. Everybody knows that the Resident must have been at the root of the matter. It is he who must have accused the Maharaja of incapacity. The Government took his word for Gospel truth and did not think it necessary to make any independent enquiry into the matter. Necessity, they say, has no law, and the Government's necessity was great. The fate of the Maharaja was sealed and the Secretary of State in Council confirmed the policy of the Indian Government without examining the grounds on which it was based. Does the duty of the Secretary of State and his Council consist merely in saying "ditto" to the Indian Government? If so, what is the use of keeping up this expensive establishment but to provide a number of worn-out Englishmen with comfortable berths?

There is one question in this connection which we should like to be answered. The Government had the necessity of deposing the Maharaja of Cashmere. The expediency of establishing British influence in Gilgit and Chitral was strongly felt. But what is the political necessity which led the Government to depose the Maharaja of Bhurtpur? None whatever. There seems to be no other ground for the deposition of the Maharaja of Bhurtpur than the readiness on the part of the Government to gratify the British Resident's insatiable thirst for power and supremacy.

Let then the Indians Chiefs and Princes beware. Let them know that there is no escape from the wrath of the Resident, from which even their valuable services to the Government cannot save them. Let them therefore always try to keep the Residents in good humour. That the Resident is all-powerful has already been proved in the case of Cashmere, and is again proved in the case of Bhurtpur.

56. The *Sulabh Dainik* of the 15th June says that the Maharaja of Patiala,

The Maharaja of Patiala.

who sometime ago earned a cheap notoriety by marrying the sister of the European Superintendent of his stables, has now engaged the services of a European physician. All this is no doubt done to earn the good graces of the Government; but the Maharaja may rest assured that no amount of partiality for Europeans will prevent the Supreme Government from interfering in the administration of his State whenever the necessity of doing so will arise. The Maharaja is already giving the

SANJIVANI,  
June 15th, 1895.

SULABH DAINIK,  
June 15th, 1895.



public sufficient indication to conjecture that the management of his State is not all that it should be.

#### VI.—MISCELLANEOUS.

CHARU MIHIR,  
June 11th, 1895.

57. The *Charu Mihir* of the 11th June has the following:—

The real condition of the masses in India.

The lower strata of society constitute its backbone, and as in the human body, so in human society, a debilitated backbone indicates a speedy breakdown of the entire system which is held fast by it. Before, therefore, an attempt is made at a national regeneration in this country, the condition of the masses which has become deplorable in consequence of chronic poverty, should be improved. Without this preliminary work every attempt to regenerate the country must be a failure.

The peasantry in India were known from time immemorial for their frugal and even abstemious habits. But now, not only the peasants but even the labouring classes have made English life their ideal, and have by so doing, lost their good old ways. The masses therefore, peasants, fishermen, potters, all, are becoming more and more involved in debt every day, and are in a fair way to forget what competence is. Nay, a very large portion of the lower classes are now nothing more than a living mass of starvation and disease, and fail to hide their wretchedness behind the glitter of their external luxury.

The peace and commercial prosperity which India has been enjoying under British rule, lead many people to think that her masses are acquiring wealth. But this is a belief which is not entirely true. The labouring classes are certainly earning more than they earned before, but their increased earnings are more than swallowed up by their increased expenditure. The landowner has perceived his advantage in the ever-increasing demand for land and is making the best of his opportunity. Rents have in consequence considerably risen. And what with high rents and the new luxurious living, the raiyats find themselves the veritable slaves of the money-lenders. The wave of western civilisation which is just now passing over the country, and which first affected the upper classes of society, has now reached the lower classes, and has made them forget their old habits, and pay greater attention to clothing and outward outfit, than to food, and other means unto health. People who would have come out before in only a piece of waist-cloth, now hesitate to stir out without a shirt and a pair of shoes. The very day-labourers, when they have occasion to come to a town, seldom leave it without having visited its shops and making purchases there of articles of luxury.

CHARU MIHIR.

58. The same paper has the following:—

The Hindu marriage expense question.

Our weakness in certain social matters is the cause of our political humiliation, and at no time does this social weakness come out more prominently than when we approach the Government with a request for the grant of some political privilege. It is no wonder that Government who sees our weakness should be so cautious in bestowing political gifts upon us.

For a long time there has been an agitation in the country for the reduction of the Hindu marriage expenses. But finding the result of this agitation extremely unsatisfactory, Government has now come forward to help Hindu society in this matter. The interference of a foreign Government in the social concerns of the Hindus may be undesirable. But when the Hindus will not themselves remove their social evils, Government's help is indispensable.

In an independent country, the king is not only the political but also the social leader of the people. That was the case in India before she came under her foreign yoke. But even after her conquest by the Muhammadans, the zamindars and the Brahmans acted as the leaders of Hindu society, and largely upheld its dignity and prestige. But now under the English rule both these classes have lost their old power, and Hindu society has lost its natural guide and leader. It was hoped that high English education would supply the place of the influence which was exercised by the Brahmans and the zamindars, and would check the evil of exorbitant marriage expenses. But that hope has not been realized. English knowing Indians are as much given to extortion as



ignorant people. Under these circumstances who, but the Government can help the Hindus out of their difficulty?

59. The *Sahachar* of the 12th June writes as follows in connection with the Hindu marriage expense question:—

The Hindu marriage expense question.

The Punjab Government intends to pass a law restricting the Hindu marriage expense. It would

have been an easy affair to pass such a law, if the country had been under native rule; but the attempt on the part of an alien Government to pass a law having a bearing on the Hindu society is calculated to create public discontent. The Supreme Government should therefore do well not to countenance in any way the proposal of legal enactment in this respect. That the question is a burning one and demands public attention, goes without saying. It is very gratifying to see that the Bengal Government has taken a very sensible view of the matter. It is of opinion that the leaders of the society themselves should combine, discuss the question thoroughly, arrive at some definite conclusion, and then try their best to carry it into effect, the Government being willing to give whatever support it can to the movement, consistently with its policy of neutrality. The enormous expense of Hindu marriage is no doubt a crying evil, and the sooner it is removed the better. There is, however, only one remedy for the evil, and that is the social injunction unanimously laid down by the leaders of the society that the guardian of the bridegroom shall not accept from the guardian of the bride more than a fixed amount of dowry. If he violates this rule he shall be punished by the society with excommunication or any other method of social punishment. The kayasthas of Bihar have started a movement with the purpose of curtailing their marriage expense and a similar movement should be set on foot in Bengal.

SAHACHAR,  
June 12th, 1895.

60. The same paper is sorry to observe that the temple of Sivaji in Puna, containing the remains of that great Mahratta Chief, is crumbling into ruins on account of the apathy of the Government. The Government has of late sanctioned a yearly grant of Rs. 4 for the repair of the temple, but this amount is totally inadequate for the purpose. The Government is lavish in its expenditure in keeping the ancient monuments of India in proper repair. The Tajmahal of Agra and the tomb of Ranjit Singh are objects of its care. Why should the monument of Mahratta glory alone thus be neglected?

SAHACHAR,

61. The *Murshidabad Hitaishi* of the 12th June has the following:—

The Hindu marriage expense question.

As a general rule it is not desirable that Government should interfere in any social matter. But

the question is whether Government's offer of help in the matter of the remedy of social evils is to be declined, even when any such evil has become very serious. The present system of expensive marriages in Hindu society almost threatens its dissolution, and the evil has assumed such proportions as to leave almost no hope of any remedy. Government is deserving of all praise for having come to the rescue of the people at such a crisis. But the solution of this marriage problem is a very difficult, if not an altogether hopeless, task, for while a limit to marriage expenditure will be hailed as a boon by poor fathers with daughters to marry, it will be felt as a grievance by rich fathers. The gentlemen whose opinions have been asked are all educated men, and it is to be hoped that they will not suffer themselves to be frightened by the bugbear of Government interference, especially as Government does not propose to legislate on the matter.

MURSHIDABAD  
HITAISHI,  
June 12th, 1895.

62. The *Hitavadi* of the 14th June sees no cause for fear in the agitation which has been set on foot by Babu Rasik Lal

The Hindu marriage expense question.

Ray in the matter of the Hindu marriage expenses.

Government's interference in the social matters of the Hindus is certainly undesirable, but the writer fails to see why objections should be taken to Government's action in honouring and recognizing the services of those who are endeavouring to reduce the marriage expenses of the Hindus. Those who, with a view to avoid Government's interference in social matters, would not have even its help or sympathy in the matter of social reform, are either idiots or fools. It is to these pseudo-patriots that the country and Hindu society owe their present degraded condition.

HITAVADI,  
June 14th, 1895.



BANGAVASI,  
June 15th, 1895.

63. Referring to Sir Charles Elliott's recent speech at the annual meeting of the Darjeeling branch of the Foreign Bible Society, the *Bangavasi* of the 15th June writes as follows:—

This Christian society in Darjeeling enjoys the full sympathy and hearty support of Sir Charles Elliott—support and sympathy of a kind which it never had the good fortune to enjoy to such an extent under any other Lieutenant-Governor. But it is not only this particular missionary society which Sir Charles has taken under his patronage, but every society which has for its object the propagation of Christianity enjoys his favour. The writer never had occasion to know the depth of His Honour's inward devotion to his religion, but his outward acts, namely, his expressions of sympathy with proselytising bodies are a sufficient proof that he possesses such devotion in full measure. The reader will remember the Lieutenant-Governor's expression of his alarm at the Hindu revival, and of his consequent sympathy with the Darjeeling Bible Society, on the occasion of a previous annual meeting of the Society. For this year's meeting His Honour lent the use of the very Darbar Hall in the Shrubbery, and he took the chair himself. It is very necessary that the Hindu subjects of Her Majesty should know what their Lieutenant-Governor has said for the purpose of encouraging and strengthening the Christian Missionary cause, for it is somewhat strange under English rule that the Governor of an Indian province should so openly sympathize with the propagation of a particular creed. This is what the Lieutenant-Governor said:—"we [who are not missionaries exclusively devoted to the preaching of Christianity, should at least be their auxiliaries and add our weight and impact to theirs. We should feel the neutral position of Government to be a right and proper attitude, but while Government officials could not assist by direct proselytising, still they could worthily help in advancing the work of the Society by giving material aid for the extension of their publications, and by thus furthering the increased knowledge of the perfect character of Christ. The attitude of the native mind with regard to us Christians was that we showed but little in our daily life that referred to our religion, and this especially was the case with Hindus. Their actions are all regulated by religion, whereas our outward religion was confined to the observance of Sundays. The Muhammadans differed from Hindus in their attitude towards us, as they allowed our Bible to be a high authority like their own; and so by spreading the Scriptures among them we should be supplying them with a rule of morality higher than that revealed in their own Scriptures. In spite of the clash of dogmas, all Christianity could join in the use of the common Bible and in furthering the spread of that common basis of all creeds.

I well remember my presence at the first meeting where so many representatives of those who had translated the Scriptures gathered together, and copies of the different translations were placed on the table as a visible mark and sign of work done. But I will like to see a further improvement and a great need met." His Honour then alluded to the revision of the Hindu and Bengali Scriptures, and added:—"We all, as we looked back to the past year, felt how far the progress we had made fell short of the high hopes we had. Our hopes of an early revision of the Bible have not been fulfilled, but we trust that by next year there would be better news to gladden us, that this great need which is felt all the more year by year, as the intellectual standard of the natives for whose use the Bible is translated becomes higher, will be effectually met, and that the work of this great Society will increase in utility and bear greater fruit."

Surely, this is utterance worthy of a Christian. But knowing that under the policy laid down by the British Government for the administration of India, the encouragement of any particular religion would be interpreted to mean ill-feeling against other religions, the officials though Christians themselves, had never before ventured to give such encouragement as this to Christianity. Sir Charles, however, who is frank to a fault fears nobody. He is a Christian and he possesses the ruling power; why should he not then use it for furthering the cause of his own religion?

It is for the Muhammadan community to judge whether they should accept without demur what Sir Charles has said in regard to them. As for the Hindus,



they are not sorry for what the Lieutenant-Governor has said, because, being a Christian, Sir Charles has spoken like a Christian. It is true that considering the total failure of all missionary efforts to convert Hindus to Christianity, the sympathy extended towards them by the Lieutenant-Governor will inspire them with great strength, courage and boldness. But there will be nothing to fear in that. Let everybody, by the grace of God, walk steadily along the path of life, never losing sight of its aim, and he will come by no harm. It is not for a poor subject people to question the propriety of the conduct of a ruler, who in spite of the declared policy of his Government openly advises Christian missionaries as to the best means of propagating their creed. But it is certainly a wonder how the people of India can go on talking of the religious neutrality of the British Government, when Sir Charles Elliott's last utterance has met with no disapprobation at the hands of the British public. The Indians ought to be thankful to Sir Charles for dispelling the illusion they have so long laboured under.

64. The same paper joins with the *Saraswat Patra* in expressing surprise at Government's omission to confer upon Raja Rajendra Narayan of Bhawal, in the Dacca district, a higher title than that which he already possesses. The Raja holds a prominent place among the zamindars of East Bengal, and is well known both to Government and to his country for his large charities.

BANGAVASI,  
June 15th, 1895.

The claim of Raja Rajendra Narayan of Bhawal to a high title.

65. The *Dainik-o-Shamachar Chandrika* of the 16th June says that the *Saraswat Patra* sets an unduly high value on honours conferred by Government, and is therefore sorry that no Pandit of Vikrampur, the Nadia of East Bengal, has yet been honoured with the title of *Mahamahopadhyaya*. But the way in which selections are made for that honour is such that a man ought to laugh at every circumstance connected with its distribution, instead of feeling sorry. The title of *Mahamahopadhyaya* has not enhanced the glory of Nadia or of Bhatpara; nor will it enhance the glory of Vikrampur. This hankering after titles has become a disease.

DAINIK-O-SAMACHAR,  
CHANDRIKA,  
June 16th, 1895.

The Hindu marriage expense question.

66. The Bengal Government, says the *Dacca Gazette* of the 17th June, is following in the footsteps of the Punjab Government in connection with the Hindu marriage expense question, and has called for the opinions of the Commissioners of Divisions on the subject. It is gratifying to see that Sir Charles Elliott has not in this instance manifested his usual obstinacy and hot-headedness, and has taken a very sensible view of the matter. The leaders of the society alone are qualified to introduce reform. The Government is a powerful alien Government. It is not in touch with the society, and it is no authority in Hindu social questions. It cannot therefore, be admitted into the sacred precincts of Hindu society. Let the Government, therefore, call on the natural leaders of the society to determine the lines on which reform should proceed and let it strengthen their hands in carrying out their measure of reform without in any way influencing or interfering with them.

DACCA GAZETTE,  
June 17th, 1895.

67. The *Dainik-o-Samachar Chandrika* of the 17th June observes that the Government ought to have honoured Babu Kali Prasanna Ghosh of Dacca with a title. He is a celebrated Bengali writer and is the able Dewan of the Raja of Jaydevpur. The writer has no great admiration for birthday honours, but neither has he any hesitation in saying that no man is better entitled to an honour than Babu Kali Prasanna. Honour conferred on him will be an honour to the Government itself.

DAINIK-O-SAMACHAR  
CHANDRIKA,  
June 17th, 1895.

68. The same paper condemns the Lieutenant-Governor's speech at the meeting of the Darjeeling Branch of the Foreign Bible Society. That was a strange spectacle, the ruler of the Hindus and the Mussalmans publicly encouraging the circulation of Christian tracts and the dissemination of the principles of Christianity. Sir Charles Elliott has not only encouraged the Society himself but has also called upon all Government officials to encourage it. Sir Charles Elliott is always true to his word, and one should expect him to issue a circular to all Collectors, Commissioners and Head masters of schools, requiring them to encourage the sale of Christian tracts. A Lord Bishop could

DAINIK-O-SAMACHAR  
CHANDRIKA.

The Lieutenant-Governor's Darjeeling speech.



not have gone so far. Why not make Sir Charles a Lord Bishop? The Lieutenant-Governor has not, however, done well in publicly encouraging the spread of Christianity. He has by his conduct offended millions of his Hindu and Musalman subjects. He ought to keep himself neutral in all religious matters. This is the express command of Her Majesty's Government. Is there no one to demand an explanation from the Lieutenant-Governor? Will not Lord Elgin be roused from his sleep?

DAINIK-O-SAMACHAR  
CHANDRIKA,  
June 18th, 1895.

69. The *Dainik-o-Samachar Chandrika* of the 18th June cannot approve of Babu Rasik Lal Ray's action in requesting the help of Government in reducing the marriage expenses of the Hindus, because Government's interference in social matters is not desirable. Besides, Rasik Babu is probably taking a false step in mentioning the names of Sir Romesh Chandra Mitter, Babu Sisir Kumar Ghosh, Rai Rajkumar Sarvadhikari Bahadur, Dr. Suryya Kumar Sarvadhikari, Babu Amrita Lal Ray, Babu Nogendra Nath Ghosh, Babu Rajendra Nath Mittra and of some other native gentlemen of position as of those whom Mr. Cotton wants to join the movement. This amounts to an insinuation that these gentlemen will incur Government's displeasure if they do not lend a helping hand to Rasik Babu. Nay, it amounts almost to a threat.

CHUNDER NATH BOSE,

*Bengali Translator.*

BENGALI TRANSLATOR'S OFFICE,  
The 22nd June 1895.